

Remarks/Arguments**Support for Amendments.**

The amendment to page 1 adds the cross-reference to the applications from which this one claims priority, and does not constitute the addition of new matter to the application.

Claims 1 to 26 have been cancelled and new claims 27 to 31 have been entered into the application as indicated above.

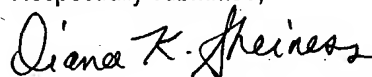
The title of the application has been amended to reflect the subject matter of new claims 27 to 31. The Abstract of the Disclosure likewise has been amended for the same reason.

Support for new claims 27 to 31 is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 5-13; page 6, line 23 to page 23, line 18; page 44, line 1 to page 51, line 33; page 66, line 23 to page 67, line 8; and page 76, lines 4-16. Accordingly, new claims 27-31 do not constitute the addition of new matter to the application.

Claims 27 to 31 above were copied in substance from U.S. Patent No. 6,419,944, which issued July 16, 2002. Claims 27 to 31 have been copied into this application in accord with 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) in order to ensure and preserve the Applicants' right to later request an interference with U.S. Patent No. 6,419,944. By copying these claims from U.S. Patent No. 6,419,944, Applicants do not necessarily assert that all of the subject matter described in these claims is patentable. Applicants will timely file an Information Disclosure Statement in this application.

Conclusion. To ensure efficient handling of this application, it is suggested that the Examiner telephone counsel prior to initiating examination. Counsel can be reached at her direct dial number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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